

**OUR MISSION: Make the Muskoka lakes safer and quieter to ensure the sustainable enjoyment of a treasured shared resource**

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## June 2018 - Newsletter

# Getting the Word Out

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### Chair's Message

Safe Quiet Lakes had an outstanding 2017, reaching thousands with messages about safe and responsible boating. There were over 3300 respondents to the [“Your Lakes, Your Views”](#) survey. These responses gave us clear guidance on the issues affecting you and how you want them addressed. Based on this, and input from the April 2018 Stakeholder meeting we have reinforced our commitment to education and awareness. We are undertaking specific education programs on wakes by promoting “Slow Down, Bow Down”, on speed to close to shore by developing new media, and on effective complaints to the OPP. The articles below have more details on these initiatives.

Over development is a rising threat in the Muskokas. As a consequence of the results from the survey, we believe the review process for large lakefront developments should require a lake capacity assessment to ensure our lakes are not overburdened. We are participating in this issue at the Township and District level in conjunction with the MLA and the Friends of Muskoka.

We are thrilled with the response to last month's recruiting eblast. Two new directors, Jayne McCaw and Rob Bosomworth, both from Lake Rosseau, have joined our hardworking Board. We are in the process of interviewing several more candidates and look forward to working with these committed and enthusiastic volunteers.

Thank you to the many donors, lake associations and individuals, and to our [generous sponsors](#). Your interest, support and participation are so very important to us. Please be in touch if you would like to get involved in our work. I can be reached at [chair@safequiet.ca](mailto:chair@safequiet.ca).

**Frances Carmichael**  
*Chair, Safe Quiet Lakes*



Safe Quiet Lakes volunteers at the Port Carling Locks for the campaign launch on a rainy Victoria Day weekend Saturday.

In the photo (l to r): Caroline Brooks, Craig Reith, Karen Dalton, Pat Pape, John Klink, Rob Bosomworth, Al Manchee

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## Campaign to reduce speed and wakes on the Muskoka Lakes

*Safe Quiet Lakes launched its annual public safety campaign in partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on Saturday May 19th to coincide with the beginning of the boating season.*

For the third summer, our local OPP marine units and Safe Quiet Lakes will be working together to educate boat operators on ways to operate their vessels safely, quietly and respectfully. In combination with a media campaign and our outreach program to marinas, lake associations and at events, we will be encouraging boaters to reduce speed close to shore and eliminate excessive wakes and the safety hazards and damage they create.

The OPP will be giving out our materials at the over 3700 safety checks and intercepts and Safe Quiet Lakes representatives will be at boating events and working with lake and resident associations across the region. Over 60 marinas and resorts in the Muskoka region are also promoting the [Boaters Code](#) at their gas docks and boat launches.

Contact [outreach@safequiet.ca](mailto:outreach@safequiet.ca) if you would like a presentation at an your AGM or event.



Here are links to some of the recent stories about us in local media:

[CTV BARRIE](#)

[Bracebridge Examiner](#)

[Muskoka Life](#)

[Parry Sound North Star](#)

## Stakeholder Meeting - Turning insights into action

*More than 70 stakeholders and OPP attend Safe Quite Lakes annual meeting*

Safe Quiet Lakes plays a critical role facilitating dialogue on common boating concerns in the Muskoka lakes region. Our Annual Stakeholder Meeting brings together leaders in the boating community with a focus on understanding issues and finding practical solutions. What started as a grass roots community meeting with 10 people in 2012 has grown to a crowd of more than 70 stakeholders representing a wide variety of groups including: marina owners, lake associations, environmental groups, industry groups, government and the OPP.

Turning insights into action was the theme of this year's meeting hosted at the Port Carling Community Centre on April 6, 2018. Discussion was wide-ranging and thoughtful and will inform our activities this summer.

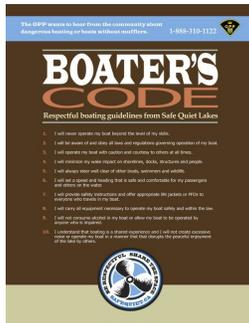
A summary of the meeting is posted on our website and can be viewed [HERE](#). Coverage of the meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

Craig Hamilton of BoaterSkills.ca  
and and long time supporter

our message to this year's stakeholder meeting. "Slow Down, Bow Down" social media campaign was launched to educate boaters on how to eliminate damaging wakes in no-wake zones. Participants overwhelmingly supported using this messaging to generate discussion on ways to reduce damaging wakes from boats. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



## Want to report boating too close to shore, wakes, noise or other safety issues? Call 1-888-310-1122



The OPP want to hear from the community about dangerous boating and boats without mufflers

Gather as much information as possible by taking detailed notes or video including: boat registration number, colour, make, model, time, frequency and location of incident and a description of the operator.

Call 911 if it's an emergency.

### About Safe Quiet Lakes

Safe Quiet Lakes is a not-for-profit community group of boaters that promotes:

- Safe, respectful boating and the adoption of the SQL boaters' code – Boaters Always Care
- The preservation of the community culture in the Muskoka region through respectful and safe use of our shared waterways

For more information or to get involved visit [safequiet.ca](http://safequiet.ca)



[Watch the Safe Quiet Lakes Video](#)

## Platinum Sponsors:



## Join the Conversation

